

STOCK MARKET STRONG AND ACTIVE—WHEAT PRICES LOWER—ADDITIONAL GOLD IMPORTS

STEEL AND UNION PACIFIC LEADERS

Stocks Throughout List Lifted
One, Two and Three Points.
Reaction at Close.

NEW YORK. March 24.—The stock market today was the broadest, strongest and most active since exchange re-opened last December. The upward swing started yesterday, and before noon good advances were made throughout the list, some of two and three points being quite common and in some cases advances of as much as three points were made. The buying demand came from many sources, and the supply of stocks seemed to be ample. Chief interest appeared to centre in the old-line issues instead of specialties, as has been the case recently, and United States Steel common remained its place as the leader.

Some reaction occurred around mid-day which caused a slight reaction from the buy, but the demand for stocks was greater than the supply and the advancing movement was continued in the late trade.

One of the most active stocks in the late session was Union Pacific, which at one stage was up more than three points. The Street had learned its dividend in the last six months. This issue was also in demand in London. About 54 per cent. of the day's business in that market was in that issue.

There was heavy foreign selling of Union Pacific, and the price fell from the high. It was said that foreign holders had sold 15,000 shares of the stock during the day. In fact, the higher level of prices throughout the list brought selling from abroad in many instances just before close, and this with realizing sales in the account of floor trade and speculators caused a reaction in prices from the high of the day, but quotations were still above the final of yesterday in the majority of issues. The leaders of the day were Union Pacific and Steel common.

There were many reasons to account for the strength in the market today and for the interest shown not only by traders but by outsiders. In the first place, the Street seems to have a well-defined feeling that the war in Europe will soon come to an end, although there is no direct or indirect information to this effect. Italy's participation on the side of the Allies would do more than anything else to bring the war to a close, and it is held, and Italy is setting nearer and nearer to the point of renouncing her neutrality.

To back up their belief that the war will soon be over brokers are offering to bet even money that hostilities will end within four months, and odds of 8 to 5 are asked that negotiations for peace will be by the end of June.

Cables from London announced that the dealers in American securities there were the largest for some time past with all these favorable influences, and with the American dollar at a premium the world over, why shouldn't the market be much better all around?

United States Steel common made a new top at 49 since the dividend was passed, going to that figure before midday, up a fraction more than 2 points from the previous day.

The favorable February statement of the Baltimore and Ohio, which showed a gain of \$1,000,000 and an increase in net of \$1,000,000, lifted that stock over two points. This, in the opinion of the Street, strengthens the belief that the company will be able to maintain the 1 per cent. dividend on the common stock.

Northern Pacific also made a good showing in February, the net increasing \$100,000.

New York Bond Sales

New York Stock Sales

SHARP RECOVERIES IN PHILA. CO. ISSUES

Keystone Telephone May Pay Back Dividends—Cambria Steel Deal Rumors Revived.

Pyrotechnics in the Philadelphia Company—United Railway Investment group of securities were the outstanding feature of the trading on the local exchange today.

Rivalization that if the statements issued by the presidents of the two concerns are correct and payments on the various bonds and stocks are to continue their present market quotations are extremely low was responsible for the placing of considerable buying orders. United Railway Investment, a holding company, dropped 56 to 56 1/2 while Philadelphia Company jumped 2 points and the two issues of preferred were bid up to 55 and 54 respectively.

Meantime in New York there were sharp advances in United Railways of San Francisco shares. Philadelphia Company recovered 56 to 56 1/2, June 15 points.

Very large blocks of those and United Railways investment bonds changed hands. In the late dealings Philadelphia Company cumulative preferred rose from 55 to 56.

There is to be a meeting tomorrow between the preferred stockholders' committee and the management of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Utilities offered. It is said that the outcome of recent negotiations may result in a new operating agreement by which the position of the preferred stock will be strengthened through shareholders waiving dividends.

The buoyancy of Wall street was reflected here in the arbitrage group, especially in United States Steel, where heavy short covering was in evidence. Cambria Steel also moved up sharply. The report was again current that the Erie interests in Cambria, which are second only in importance to the Pittsburgh group, were continuing to move into Bethlehem Steel and that when the time seemed propitious an announcement might be made of a deal between the two concerns which would involve the taking over of the Pennsylvania's major holdings of Cambria.

About the only weak spot on the local board was United Gas Improvement, which had been the most important below. It was seen of late movements of 500 shares. As hinted in this column yesterday, a certain amount of the stock was bought a few weeks ago by a prominent Chestnut street housewife, which regarded the price as cheap around 50. This started the recent rise, which was helped along by the floor traders. On Monday night the market buyers took a stand, and the quotation began to react. Meanwhile the advance gave rise to rumors of a possible motion cutting, but interests close to the management say there is nothing of the sort to sight for the immediate future.

It was stated in well informed quarters today that the Keystone Telephone Company had finally decided to begin payment of the accumulated back dividends. It is understood that the first distribution will occur some time during the present year. The accumulated dividends on the company's new cost cumulative preferred stock amount to 82 per cent., or \$11.50 on each share, the par value being \$30. In 1914 the company began to pay full annual preferred dividends.

P. R. R. OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

Board of Directors Reorganized for Ensuing Year.

In accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad company met today in organization, electing a new president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and a general manager.

The by-laws require that the directors shall consist of the body of stockholders, four shall represent the stockholders, and the remainder of the board to serve as vice-presidents of the company, in accordance with the by-laws.

George C. D. Johnson, president, and George E. Atkinson, vice-president, were re-elected.

John H. T. Moore, vice-president, and W. H. Atkinson, treasurer, were elected to succeed Mr. Johnson and Mr. Atkinson.

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